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IMPORT NEWS

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE

Y membership numbers exceed expectations

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The YMCA at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre has only been open for about two weeks but it already boasts about 1,400 memberships.

For a new facility, that number of members has exceeded staff expectations, YMCA centre manager Erin McBride said.

Having hired about 40 staff members in anticipation of the launch of the new facility, McBride said staff had not anticipated the YMCA would grow so quickly.

The YMCA offers a variety of programs including

swimming, fitness classes, children's programming and adult programming which continues to grow with membership, McBride said.

"Based on the staff we had hired initially, we had anticipated that it (the staff) would get us through the first three months."

The Port Colborne YMCA is comparable to the facility in Port Erie, which has 3,000 memberships. Both communities have small populations. The St. Catharines YMCA has about 9,500 members, but it is a much larger community than both Port Colborne and Port Erie, McBride said.

"What it shows is that the community is really excited

about it," McBride said of Port Colborne's YMCA.

She said the fitness centre is hiring six part-time child and youth program staff, as well as four lifeguards and swim instructors. Those interested must be 16 years or older to apply and have first aid, CPR, as well as aquatic qualifications for lifeguarding and teaching swimming.

Volunteers are also needed to provide facility tours and teach fitness classes.

Anyone interested in applying for a position can pick up an application as the Vale Health and Wellness Centre or apply online at www.ymcaofniagara.org.



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Nineteen-month-old Logan Cooper and his mom, Morgan Cooper, take advantage of some play time during the Family Gym program Sunday. It's one of the programs offered by the new YMCA in Port Colborne's Vale Health and Wellness Centre.

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upfront

■ **LAKESHORE:** Catholic school taking over former pool property

Success leads to expansion

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — In 2015, Gators will gather under one roof.

Niagara Catholic District School announced last Friday a provincially-funded \$5.5-million expansion at Lakeshore Catholic High School.

The 10-classroom addition will replace the school's 10 existing portables, or "chales" as they called by the Gator community.

To accommodate the expansion, Niagara Catholic purchased the former Centennial Pool property from the City of Port Colborne. The purchase amount has yet to be disclosed.

When Lakeshore opened its doors in 1986, it welcomed in students from not only Port Colborne but also Port Erie, Ridgeway, Crystal Beach, Stevensville, Wainfleet and Dunnville — a tradition that continues today, said Niagara

Catholic education director John Crocco.

Upon its opening, the school grew quickly. It underwent a significant expansion in 1993, but more room was still needed.

As that growth continued, outdoor portables were added to accommodate increasing enrolment.

But the days of needing a jacket to get to class, or even an umbrella on rainy days, will come to an end in September 2015, when the expansion opens and all Gators are again brought under one roof, said Crocco, Lakeshore's former principal.

He credited the board, administration, staff and, most importantly, the students for creating the success that in turn made the expansion possible.

Lakeshore students have "excelled in the community over the past 25 years," said principal Dan DiLorenzo, confident that trend will continue well into the future.

"Lakeshore Catholic is recognized as one of the top premier Catholic high schools in Ontario and beyond," he said, expressing pride in the Gator community.

"As important as this announcement is, I need you to think about how it came to be," board chair Kathy Burnik told the crowd.

"It's because people just like you made the choice to have Catholic education as their foundation to carry them through whatever their future brings."

Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badewey, who had a knee replacement last week, said he would not have missed the announcement for the world.

The expansion will benefit not only the students of today but also the students of the future, he said, calling it an announcement all involved should take pride in.

Letters will be sent home with students next week sharing news of the expansion with families. The design



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Niagara Catholic District School Board education director John Crocco, right, explain plans for a \$5.5-million expansion at Lakeshore Catholic High School to student trustee Michael Blair and Lakeshore student council president Sarah Johnsen.

consultation process will then begin.

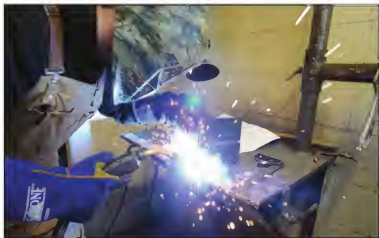
"We're going to ask for your input," Crocco told the

school's staff and students.

Once the design is created and approved and a construction timeline developed, a

groundbreaking celebration will be held.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

■ **EDUCATION:** Catholic school board holds welding competition at college campus

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Lakeshore Catholic High School student Alex Campbell welds two pieces of steel together during a skills competition Thursday at Niagara College.

Displaying sparks of talent

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Josh Hayes hopes to forge a career in welding. The Lakeshore Catholic High School student is currently working a co-op education placement at Trenergy Inc. in St. Catharines.

"The welders there really help me out ... They've showed me some tips and tricks. They're helping me prepare for my G6 pipe certification test," said Hayes, who's aiming at becoming a certified underwater welder.

Last week, Hayes was putting his talents to the test in Niagara College's welding shop as eight Niagara Catholic District School Board students competed in

the board's second annual skills competition.

"We have seven students from Lakeshore and one from Holy Cross," said Lakeshore manufacturing teacher Mike Stevenson.

The top three students from the day are moving on to another competition at the college, to face students from the Catholic board, District School Board of Niagara and other school boards.

Stevenson said students competing on Thursday were given a set of blueprints and raw materials needed to make a box, all supplied by the college, and set to work.

They had to follow the blueprints, which showed where welds had to be made and what kinds of welds had to be used.

"We bring in outside judges to look at the work," said Stevenson.

He said working together in partnership with the college is a great benefit for his high school students.

Gerard Ludgate, welding professor at the college, said students are given a tour of the welding department and they see what it has to offer.

"We try to run this just like a shop," said Ludgate.

The welding program, he added, has a two-year option which gives students who enter it more exposure to all forms of welding.

With 90 students enrolled, the professor said the program was near capacity and is popular.

portraits

■ **MAPLE SYRUP:** Free family activities

Sweet spring treat aids children's program

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — Perhaps what makes Agape Valley Sugar Bush so sweet is the volunteers who teach visitors about a very special treat — maple syrup.

The small farm on Kilman Rd. in Fonthill is open during March on the weekends, over March Break and Good Friday. Saturday was the season opener.

There is plenty of entertainment for the family, including shuttled hayrides, indoor sugar bush tours, pioneer site demonstrations and outdoor activities — all of them free.

That's because the sugar bush is intended to raise money through the sales of pancakes from the pancake house as well as maple syrup and honey, said Niagara Shorthills Christian Ministries president Tim Hartwick.

"Everybody is a volunteer," he said. "Some take people on tours and show people who visit the sugar bush how we make maple syrup right here, others help make the syrup, and there's girls in the pancake house serving them."

He said the land was purchased 20 years ago and the organization was formed to care for the land and to operate the Agape Valley Christian day camp. All funds raised through the sugar bush go toward providing children the opportunity to attend the camp, he said.

And it couldn't be done without the help of about 50 volunteers who return year after year because they have a passion for children and enjoy maple syrup.

Hartwick said the volunteers also have a passion for teaching others how maple syrup is made.

Tour guide Bruce Drennon, who has been volunteering at Agape Valley for six years, said about 20 tours are given

SWEET STUFF

How maple syrup is made

■ Maple syrup begins as sap in a maple tree.

■ The sap is harvested from the tree by drilling a small hole into it called a tap hole.

■ After a tap hole is drilled, a small fitting called a spile is inserted and tapped into place. Sap was once collected by buckets, but now plastic pipelines are used to collect the sap.

■ Maple syrup can only be made in the spring during a six to eight-week period when sap can be collected. For the sap to flow during these short weeks, the weather must fluctuate between freezing temperatures at night and warm temperatures during the day.

■ Once collected, sap is boiled in an evaporator, filtered and then it's ready to use.



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Bruce Drennon is one of three tour guides at Agape Valley who take visitors into the sugar bush to teach them how maple syrup is made.

each weekend the sugar bush is open.

One of the tidbits people learn is that it takes 40 litres of sap to make one litre of maple syrup — Agape Valley Sugar Bush produces between 400 to 500 gallons of syrup a year, he said.

He said the reason volunteers return year after year is because of the end result — because it's all for the children.

Agape Valley will be open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday in March and open weekdays during March break.

Schools and youth groups are also welcome to reserve tours of Agape Valley Sugar Bush.

For more information about Agape Valley at 392 Kilman Rd., call 905-892-4273.



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

ABOVE LEFT: Volunteer Richard Smith demonstrated how he makes candies out of bees wax. In addition to serving up delicious maple syrup, Agape Valley also boasts 60 bee hives which are used to make a variety of bees wax candies each year. ABOVE RIGHT: Volunteer Dave Heinen fills maple syrup bottles.

INPort NEWS

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■ ourview

No savings for taxpayer if Page not replaced

When Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page steps down this month at the end of his five-year mandate, the Harper government had best fill his boots with someone as substantive.

Obviously the Conservatives didn't foresee what a pain in the butt he'd become when they created his office as part of their 2006 Federal Accountability Act.

They didn't get a lap dog. Instead, they got a watchdog loyal to its actual master, the taxpayers of Canada.

Page took the Harper government to task for its wild underestimations on the cost of war in Afghanistan, the F-35 fighter-jet project, the actual size of the deficit, and its claim that Old Age Security was somehow unsustainable. In all cases, he was right.

And who could forget his December report showing Canadian taxpayers were paying an average of \$114,100 in compensation for each of the country's 375,000 full-time federal employees, accounting for 40% of all program spending?

Until Page came along, successive federal governments had kept a lock on salary averages, rightly fearing the public outcry.

It is disconcerting, therefore, to hear nary a rumour coming out of the PMO as to who might be appointed to replace Page.

What we would like to see is Harper acknowledging the success of Page's appointment, despite the political heat his government has taken from his office, and appoint a successor with the same spine and determination to serve the public.

Or, better still, immediately reappoint Page to a second term, and take the lumps as they come, and even back NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair's private member's bill to give Page added data access and protection from political interference.

This would show true political leadership, and a continuance of the kind of independent fiscal oversight that pays the taxpayer first and political partisanship a distant second. To appoint no one, however, and then spin the tale that Page's position was eliminated as some kind of austerity measure, or something just as ridiculous, would be blowing smoke.

To the beleaguered Canadian taxpayer, Kevin Page has become a fiscal knight in shining armour.

We don't have many of those.

■ COLUMN

Italy: Grillo wins



The winner of last week's election in Italy was a mythical beast called "Grilloconci." That is bad news for Italy, for the single European currency, the euro, and even for the future of the European Union. Not that "Grilloconci" will ever form a coherent government in Italy. The problem is that he - or rather, they - will prevent anybody else from doing that either.

The newer part of this hybrid beast is Beppe Grillo, a former stand-up comedian who is essentially an anti-politician. His blog hails with hile against Italy's entire political class, and his public appearances are angry, foul-mouthed, arm-waving rants against the whole system.

Reging against Italy's privileged, corrupt and dysfunctional political class is a perfectly reasonable thing to do, but Grillo's Five Star Movement, which in just a few years grew from nothing to take a quarter of the national vote in last Sunday's election, has nothing useful to put in its place. Just "throw the bums out," and the democratic power of the internet will solve all of Italy's problems.

"We want to destroy everything," Grillo said in a recent interview with the BBC. "But not rebuild with the same old rubble. We have new ideas." We have heard this sort of talk in Europe before, always from people who turned out to be totalitarianists of some sort, whether Communist or fascist. It should not be necessary for Italy to go through all that again.

The older part of the beast is Silvio Berlusconi, the former cruise-ship crooner and billionaire media magnate (he's the richest man in Italy) whose cynical populism has dominated Italian politics for the past twenty years. For more than half of that time he has been



Five Star Movement leader and comedian Beppe Grillo speaks with media after casting his vote at the polling station in Genoa.

the prime minister, and even when he's out of power he dominates the political stage.

Berlusconi is 75 now, but he still manages to generate constant sex scandals. (His "hunga hunga" parties are notorious, and he currently faces charges in connection with an under-age prostitute.) He has been fighting charges or appealing against convictions for corruption for the whole time he has been in politics, and keeps changing the criminal law to avoid doing jail time. Yet a large number of Italians go on voting for him.

Their devotion is even more inexplicable when you recall that Italy has been in steady economic decline for most of Berlusconi's two decades as the country's dominant political figure. The Italian economy is smaller, than it was twelve years ago, over a third of the under-25s are unemployed, and the state audit estimates that 60 billion euros is stolen from the national budget by corrupt politicians every year.

So 29% of Italians voted for Silvio Berlusconi's party in the election last weekend,

and 25 percent voted for Beppe Grillo's. More than half of Italy's voters preferred some part of the "Grilloconci" monster to more serious politicians who talked about fixing the economy, tackling the budget deficit, fighting organised crime, and reforming the country's badly broken justice system.

The result is political paralysis: no party or group of parties is able to form a stable government, and there will probably be another election within a year. (Only one Italian government in the past seven decades has served out its full five-year term.) But why should we believe that that will produce a better outcome? Grillo confidently predicts that his Five Star Movement will win a majority next time round, and he may well be right.

Berlusconi promises to bring back the good old days with a wave of his magic wand: 4 million new jobs, tax cuts, and even refunds for taxes paid in the recent past. But you have to trust your eyes to the financial disaster that is engulfing Italy to believe that, and it will be even harder to do

that a year from now.

Grillo promises salvation in a fantasy future where everything happens on the web, but he's really just getting the protest vote. Even he admits that the "Five Star" Movement is a dream of what could happen in 20 or 30 years. Not now. Now, nothing will happen." So why would anyone look to him for a solution to today's pressing problems? Good question.

Meanwhile, the Italian economy continues to decay, and the government goes on spending money it does not have. One number says it all: about 70,000 Italian public officials are given cars with chauffeurs. (In Britain, the number is 300.) The risk grows that Italy will need a financial bail-out so massive that it causes a collapse of the euro. Why so many Italians put up with this kind of thing passes understanding. But so does the fact that so many of those who are infuriated by it turn to a clown like Grillo, who offers salvation in the form of a web-based direct democracy. The crisis will therefore continue indefinitely.

REUTERS

■ **HEALTH:** Allen says program could save lives and

MP proposes national organ donor registry

SARAH FERGUSON
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — If a pan-Canadian organ donor registry was established, Malcolm Allen believes hundreds of lives could potentially be saved.

The New Democrat MP from Welland introduced a private member's bill Wednesday for a national Canadian organ donation registry that calls for increased co-ordination and promotion of organ donations throughout Canada.

"Over 4,000 people in the country are waiting for an organ. Over time, we see folks succumb to illness because there is no match for them," Allen said.

The Canadian Transplant Association, a registered charitable organization that promotes organ and tissue donation, sees a national registry as "a piece of the puzzle," Allen said.

Although some provinces have their own registries, not all provinces have one and

there is no national database that connects provinces and territories across Canada — often people are left waiting even if organs are available for donation in other parts of the country, he said.

Allen said organ donation can be a difficult subject because the people giving their organs may have died. What he intends with his bill is to see the country share organ information. Allen gave the example of an organ such as a heart or a kidney that becomes available in one province and there aren't any matching recipients — that organ could save the life of someone else in another province.

"The thing we need to do is to match the two groups in a way that respects the donor and the recipient."

At times, donors aren't able to fulfill their wish of giving their organs once they die because there isn't a recipient that matches. Allen said the national registry would help make any organ donors' wishes come true.

■ **MUNICIPAL FINANCE:** Aldermen fail to make any further cuts to 2013 spending

Wainfleet taxes up 6.72%

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — Capital projects, such as road and bridge repairs, account for a good portion of Wainfleet's 6.72% tax hike.

Wages, benefits, hydro and gas increases, creating a legal reserve and hiring a full-time fire chief account for the rest of the increase approved by aldermen Tuesday night, said township treasurer Robyn Madere.

Wainfleet's levy for 2013 is \$4,505,640. The capital budget increase is 4.78% and the other increases amount to 1.94%.

Madere said the tax hike means the average Wainfleet

home valued at \$261,118 will pay an extra \$93.63 this year.

Township council passed the budget on Tuesday night without making any further cuts, but it did set aside funds, about \$90,000, in a capital reserve for roads. Madere said those funds do not affect the overall budget and levy.

Ald. Ted Hessels had asked for the funds, earmarked for Townline Rd. on the Haldimand County border, to be pulled. Hessels issue with the funds was that Haldimand has yet to confirm whether it is going to work on its portion of the road.

Hessels said the road doesn't fall under Wainfleet's guideline for repair and

serves few local residents.

"There's other roads that need to be fixed," the alderman said.

Ald. Richard Dykstra questioned whether a bridge project should be put off this year to chip away at the tax hike. The bridge is shared by Wainfleet and neighbouring West Lincoln.

"If our mindset is to not let other municipalities dictate where we spend our money ..." said Dykstra, wondering whether West Lincoln would be carrying out work on Boyle Rd. bridge.

Mayor April Jeffs said the two issues are different and said Wainfleet staff would have notified council if West Lincoln wasn't going to carry out the work.

Hessels also brought up the issue of fire chief Harry Plagg being made a full-time chief. Plagg is now paid for 25 hours a week, despite the fact he averages about 31 hours worth of work.

Madere confirmed that Plagg is paid straight time for any work he does over 25 hours.

Hessels felt it wasn't worth increasing Plagg's hours to 35, making him a full-time chief, and believed he should be kept at 25 hours. He even made a motion to the effect, but it was defeated.

Jeffs said there is a need for a full-time chief with all the work and requirements set out by the province.

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IN BRIEF

SOUP UP

PORT COLBORNE — Port Cares' fourth annual Soup Fest will be held next month at St. Patrick's Church.

Soups and breads will be made by Lakeshore Catholic High School's hospitality and tourism program, Niagara College's Canadian food and wine institute, Port Colborne High School's culinary arts program and Port Cares' food service associate program.

The annual fundraiser has two seatings for lunch — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The church is at 123 King St.

Soup Fest takes place Friday, March 22. Tickets are available at Port Cares by calling 905-834-3629. Hurry and get your tickets as seating is limited.

LEGAL SEMINARS

PORT COLBORNE — Community Legal Links is hosting a free legal seminar at Port Cares Reach Out Centre.

The seminar, Wednesday, March 20, is about how to prepare a claim for small claims court, from identifying the issues to presenting in court.

Both seminars run 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Reach Out

Centre at 61 Nickel St. Call 905-835-1914 for further information.

Community Legal Links, run through Community Legal Services of Niagara South, is a volunteer training program that provides participants with hands-on experience working within a professional legal office while enhancing legal literacy and employability.

TRASHY TOWN

PORT COLBORNE — Frank Danch wants to see a little spring cleaning done in the lakeside city.

The Ward 3 Port Colborne councillor raised concerns Monday night that with snow beginning to melt, litter can be found scattered throughout the community.

He asked that citizens take the time while walking throughout Port Colborne to pick up a few pieces of trash in an effort to help beautify the city.

"Let's get a jump on spring," he said as he encouraged residents to do their part.

Garbage cans found downtown and in the Main St. area are there for a reason, Danch said, and if people dispose of their trash properly there will be less to pick up on the roadways after the fact.



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CROP

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■ **MUNICIPAL FINANCE:** Flavours cost leaves a bit of a bad taste

Port Colborne taxes jump 4.72%

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Council approved its 2013 budget leaving residents with a 4.72% tax hike and nearly giving Flavours of Niagara the a in the process.

Councillors attempted to bring the levy increase down by initiating conversations about a number of potential cuts, including the cancellation of Flavours.

Despite council trying to find some wiggle room in the more than \$13-million

lion budget, the increase stayed stagnant through the meeting.

Once Niagara Region and education costs are factored into tax bills, the blended rate, including a total 1.43% increase, will see residents paying out a bottom line \$40 more this year.

It was Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters who questioned how much the city would save if it scrapped its three-day food festival, suggesting instead a more simplistic one-day celebration on Canada Day — the long

weekend when Flavours is traditionally held.

It costs the city about \$9,000 to run the Flavours once expenditures and revenues are factored in, said Peter Senese, Port Colborne's director of community and corporate services.

The event does, however, bring significant funds into the community with visitors supporting the local economy, he said. With a Canada Day celebration still needing to happen, there's no guarantee how much the city would actually save in cancelling

Flavours, he added.

Butters also asked the potential savings if the market square entertainment on the Sunday and Monday of Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival was canned.

"I consider certain things frills," she said, adding if certain events are not bringing in money, they should be trimmed.

The Canal Days entertainment for 2013 has already been booked and contracts could prevent the city from recouping costs, Senese said. Port Colborne spends about

\$21,000 over the two days for entertainment.

Council ultimately decided to send the festival issues back to their respective organizing committees for further examination in hopes of finding cost efficiencies in the way each are run.

Attempting to take another avenue to lessen the levy increase, Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet asked whether it would be possible to see the local business improvement area groups take on watering of the flowers in their respective areas of the city. It's a

task commonly paid for by BIAs in other communities, he said, questioning why Port Colborne is forking out the funds.

Watering of flowers in the city's downtown and Main St. areas costs nearly \$19,000 a year.

"We should be discussing better ways to do this," Doucet said, asking that talks begin between the city and both BIA groups in hopes of reining in costs for 2014.

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■ **MUNICIPAL FINANCE:** Residents can expect to pay an extra \$31 this year

Port Colborne water rates increase 2.67%

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The average ratepayer can expect to see an extra \$31 tacked onto

their water bill this year.

Port Colborne council approved its water and sewer rates, which will see an overall annual increase of 2.67% for the average user of 0.75 cubic metres

of water per day.

That means the average user can expect to shell out a total \$1,167 in 2013 compared to \$1,167 in 2012.

The city's water usage rate is predicted to drop in 2013, but its fixed water and sewer costs, as well as its sewer usage rate, have all increased for 2013, said Peter Senese, Port Colborne's director of community and corporate services.

"I was surprised it didn't go up a little more," Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner said of the overall rate increase.

Considering the leak repair measures being taken by the city, including its extensive combined sewer overflow program and new provincially-mandated water regulations that required Port Colborne to hire a water technician, Bodner felt the increase was actually low.

Those additional costs were able to be absorbed into the rate structure, Senese said.

Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet raised concern that the fixed rates are rising faster than inflation.

If the city looked at reducing

its fixed water cost, the consumption rate would rise even higher, Senese said.

He also warned there are talks at the regional level of moving to a 50% fixed rate up from 25%. By increasing its fixed rate gradually each year, the city is creating a more stable environment for future water and sewer budgets, Senese said.

"We're moving toward making sure we're getting to be sustainable on fixed costs so we don't have a huge increase in the future... It's prudent to stay on a gradual increase to get there."

If the fixed rate is not high enough, the municipality runs the risk of a large deficit because it's not able to recoup the fixed costs, which cover items such as debentures and capital work.

Budgeted capital work for 2013 includes watermain replacements on Killaly St. W. from Oakwood to King St., Elm St. north of Main St., and Snider St.

In analyzing the overall costs, Senese said the only way to reduce the fixed rates would be to cut or reduce services.

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■ **REAL ESTATE:** Property bought for for \$275,000

Numbered company buys Westside Arena



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne city council has approved the sale of the Westside Arena property for \$275,000.

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Westside Arena wasn't on ice long before interest in the facility and its surrounding property heated up.

Council approved a purchase agreement that will see the arena property sold for \$275,000 — the estimated market value for the property.

The arena was decommissioned last week following the opening of Port Colborne's Vale Health and Wellness Centre, which has

two ice surfaces.

The property is being sold to a numbered company, 1844833 Ontario Inc.

"I'm very happy we were able to sell the land," said Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny, who was eager to hear about the purchaser's intentions for the property.

"Unfortunately, I can't publicly release that information," Dan Aquilina, the city's director of planning and development, said in response.

While he has met with the purchaser, information regarding use of the property

has not yet been made public, he said.

He did, however, say he believes the use is "something council and the city would support."

As the lands are zoned public and park and have very limited acceptable uses, it "may require rezoning" for the developer to move forward as planned, Aquilina said. If rezoning is required, the application will go through the public meeting process and appear before council for approval, he added.



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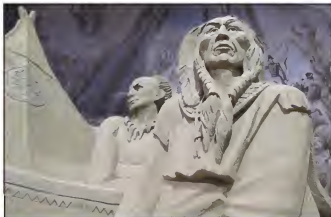
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■ **TOURISM:** Falls residents get sneak preview of sand sculptures



MIKE DIBATTISTA QMI Agency Niagara

An example of the sand sculptures on display in Niagara Falls.

Sands of time

JOHN LAW
QMI Agency Niagara

NIAGARA FALLS — A year in the planning. Millions of dollars in renovations. A few truckloads of sand.

And while a massive new sand sculpture exhibition at the former Niagara Falls Memorial Arena still isn't open, residents got a free sneak peak this weekend.

"It is something else, that's for sure," said Niagara Falls resident David Hampson, who brought along his three daughters, Ashley, Holly and Natalie. "It's actually hard to believe that they can carve something like that out of sand."

"If I was a tourist in this town, I'd put this on my list."

The show offers 20 sand sculptures, some of them seven metres tall, depicting key figures and events from the War of 1812. It took 15 of the most highly-touted sand sculptors in the world several months and three million kilograms of sand to complete.

After months of mystery, hundreds of people turned out to see the exhibition for free. An official opening day still hasn't been confirmed by co-owner Valeriy Revura of the Russian-based consortium V2 Niagara Inc.

"It will open this spring, maybe the end of March," he said, greeting visitors as they entered the former hockey arena.

"Everybody is just ... 'Wow.'"

Visitors marvelled at the detail in most sculptures, more akin to woodcarving. When they weren't staring at the sand, they were taking in the building itself, noting the renovations to the former home of the OHL Flyers and Thunder.

V2 Niagara Inc. purchased the arena from the city for \$1 million last winter. It put a further \$2 million into its facelift. Walls and floors have been replaced with sepiatone tiles and designs. The arena's problematic ceiling has been repaired, and the exterior's drab grey has been replaced with sandy brown.

"I was telling the girls when we walked in, I used to watch hockey in here," said Hampson.

There are still some minor touch-ups to get the show ready for a paying public, but Revura was thrilled with what he heard this weekend. Now he just needs to pry tourists away from the Clifton Hill area this summer to see something historic and unique.

"It's my dream to make Niagara Falls like Las Vegas Niagara," he said.

Once it opens, the War of 1812 exhibit will continue until at least September, Revura added. After that, new shows with Canadian themes — hockey, landmarks — will rotate every three months.

"My experience after seven years in a video store ... people don't want to see the same movie over and over."

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Nolan's never stopped fighting

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Victoria Nolan knows what it's like to be hit — and hit hard.

But despite the hardships that have come her way, she's never stopped fighting.

That continued determination to get up when knocked down is a trait she hoped to share with and even inspire in youths at DSNB Academy, where she gave a presentation last Friday.

Nolan is a recently-retired member of the adaptive or Paralympic Canadian rowing team. At age 18, prior to finding her love for the sport, she was diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease that has since left her

“I'm proof that if you keep at it, keep getting up, you can get to wherever you want to be.”

Victoria Nolan

with only 5% vision.

She admits the diagnosis shocked her world — pushing her to the point where she had difficulty leaving the house alone. She feared what her future would be like.

But looking back now, Nolan says if she could've lived her whole life with her sight, she'd still rather go without.

Through the challenges she's faced, she's become a stronger person. Nolan encouraged her audience not to shy away from the difficult hands life may deal.

“My message is whatever happens to you, you need to keep going. You need to get back up,” she says.

“It will make you a better person.”

Working to overcome obstacles is difficult, she admits, but worth every moment in the long run.

“I'm proof that if you keep at it, keep getting up, you can get to wherever you want to be.”

Nolan took her initial fear and channeled it into finding a new hobby, eventually ending up on the waterway.

see **ATHLETE** | page 13



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Victoria Nolan, a recently-retired member of the adaptive or Paralympic Canadian rowing team, shared her story of overcoming obstacles during a presentation at DSNB Academy.

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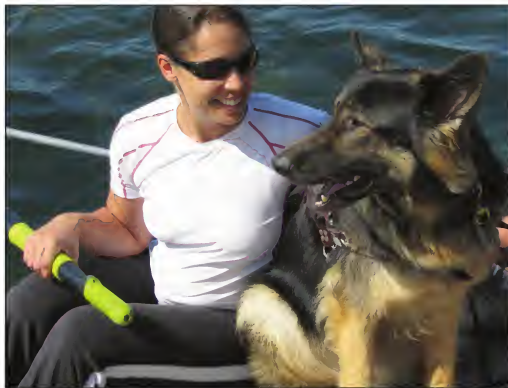


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■ ATHLETE

Victoria a two-time Paralympian

FROM PAGE 12

She's since gone on to win both gold and bronze medals at the World Rowing Championships and has twice competed with the Canadian team at the Paralympics.

It didn't come easy, however.

It took countless hours

In this 2008 file photo, paralympian rower Victoria Nolan, who is blind, practises before heading to Beijing with her guide dog.

of practice, plenty of drive and a heart filled with determination.

"It wasn't just me taking on the world, it was me taking on my disability — and I won," says the mother-of-two, who also works as a special education teacher in a Toronto elementary school. She explained to the students that if they strive for their dreams and fight past any obstacles in their way, they can all be winners too.

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■ REGION: Use \$1.9 million to cover emergencies

Funds should go to help disabled

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — Niagara Region's \$1.9 million windfall from the province should go toward helping disabled people cover their housing emergencies, staff has recommended.

Regional council's public health and community services committee will debate next week using the cash to bolster the Housing Stability Plan. That's the one-year program council implemented last year to cover the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit, which was lost when the province gave the Region back half the funding in a more flexible form.

The plan covered Ontario Works clients, but left people who are disabled exposed.

"We targeted people on Ontario Works with the Housing Stability Plan largely because we didn't have the money to do everyone else," said community services commissioner Katherine Chislett, adding the grant changes that.

And, she said, it means the depth of the funding cut the Region suffered for

2013 has been reduced to 21%. That's an improvement on the 52% cut originally received, which was itself a correction from an 88% cut.

The province said the new funding model — the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative — is more flexible and will help cities meet their specific needs.

Chislett said the Region hopes to maximize its use of those dollars. She said if council approves the use of the grant, 20,000 more people will be covered.

"We want to go as far as we can, maybe a little over, to ensure we're doing everything possible," she said.

She said the housing plan has thus far largely mitigated the impact of the CSUMB's loss. The benefit is used to cover emergency housing needs, like last month's rent and moving.

In loss was predicted by Pelham Coun. Brian Baty last year to be "the largest social tsunami of our lifetimes."

"That was the seawall," Chislett said of the plan.

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■ REMUNERATION: Report for 2012 presented

Council costs brought forward

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Township council, committee of adjustment and library board members cost taxpayers \$81,539.17 in 2012.

Wainfleet treasurer Robyn Madere presented the 2012 remuneration report on Tuesday night, showing the total expenses of each.

Mayor April Jeffs' total expenditures for 2012 were \$26,393.20, with her wages at \$12,808.90.

Jeffs had \$2,605.02 in conference expenses and \$1,231.05 in mileage expenses. Jeffs and Ald. Richard Dykstra were the only two council members to claim mileage in 2012. Dykstra claimed \$96.41 in mileage expenses last year. Wages for alderman are \$6,726.01.

Dykstra had \$3,209.88 in conference expenses last year, putting him on top of alderman

who claimed those expenses. Ald. David Wyatt was second in conference expenses claiming \$2,971.86.

Ald. Betty Konec and Ald. Ted Hessels had conference expenses of \$71.03 and \$849.69 respectively.

Library board member Lynn Hunt, Rick Larmont, Michelle Tingey and George Csuka had total expenses of \$300 each for their work in 2012. The board members can claim mileage, but none of the four did.

Committee of adjustment members Gary Balicki, David Scott, Lewis Shedden, Jennifer Turner and Zachary Emerson cost the township \$1,430.81 in total. Emerson received no wage in 2012, but did claim expenses of \$31.50. Both Turner and Balicki claimed expenses of \$55.83 and \$146.52 respectively.



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■ **WELLAND RESOLUTION:** Calls for NHS to hold off on decisions

Port supports keeping services close to home

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne council has put its support behind retaining maternal and childcare services at Welland and Niagara Falls hospitals.

Council endorsed a resolution brought forward from Welland council that urges the Niagara Health System to refrain from making decisions regarding the services until the new St. Catharines hospital has been in full operation for six months.

It also asks that the new NHS board have an opportunity to review the decisions to consolidate the services in St. Catharines, and that the tripartite review committee be reconvened as soon as possible to complete its review of the planned service changes.

Despite a staff recommendation that Port Colborne council refer the matter to the South Niagara Health Care Corp., Ward 4 Coun.



I don't believe I need the South Niagara Health Care Corp. to advise me on this."

Coun. Barbara Butters

Barbara Butters felt it prudent to deal with the topic immediately.

"I don't believe I need the South Niagara Health Care Corp. to advise me on this," she said, confident she had a good handle on how residents feel about the issue.

Butters attended a healthcare rally last month in Welland, where she spoke to south Niagara residents, including several from Port Colborne, about the issue.

Butters' Ward 4 counterpart Coun. Ron Bodner cautioned her that healthcare issues have traditionally been

referred to the SNHCC to see them reviewed by medical professionals.

"I'd be more comfortable in doing that," he said.

Ward 5 Coun. Yvon Doucet questioned whether council was "just spinning our wheels" as Smith's recommendations in regards to services seem to be a "done deal."

"Will it be worth doing? Maybe that's where the experts can come in and tell us if it's worth doing," he said.

"To stay silent is just not acceptable," Butters said in response.

"When you stay silent, you get what you deserve. If you speak up and still get screwed over, at least you tried to fight for the citizens of your community."

Council approved the resolution unanimously and also referred it to the SNHCC for further review.

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■ **GRANT REQUEST:** City passes on endorsing group

'Let's let the hydro board do its job'

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Is it fair to give organizations looking for a helping hand a leg up? That's the question that was posed around the city council table after a presentation from Niagara College's Many Hands Project.

The group appeared before council seeking a \$500 sponsorship to support its renovation of the Port Carer Reach Out Food Centre, specifically to support the addition

of an indoor children's area or the expansion of the agency's community garden plots.

While councillors all agreed the project was certainly worthy, they also noted the city no longer issues permission grants. Grants are instead handed out twice a year through the Port Colborne Hydro board.

Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters asked whether support could be put behind the project, helping it to climb the priority list for the hydro board when the next granting

period gets underway.

Although he believes it's a good cause, Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele raised issue with giving council's endorsement to one organization over another, essentially giving them a "leg up" when applying for hydro funding.

"Let's let the hydro board do its job," he said. Steele, who sits on the hydro board, even went as far as to suggest the city's bylaws be changed so groups requesting funds be redirected to the hydro board before they present to council.

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Ask Our Pharmacists



LARRY BOGGIO
R.Ph. B.Sc. Pharm. (Jovner)

TYLENOL/IBUPROFEN/ASPIRIN

There is often a great deal of confusion when it comes to over-the-counter products that contain Tylenol (acetaminophen), Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid), and ibuprofen.

Ibuprofen and Aspirin are similar products. They are both part of a class of medications called non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs). They are good for treating fever, pain, and inflammation. These medications help with arthritis, dental pain, and pain from broken bones and sprains. Ibuprofen is the medication found in Advil and Motrin. There is a new medication available over-the-counter in Canada called Aleve. It is also a good anti-inflammatory medication and can be used for the above purposes.

Anti-inflammatory medications are quite effective and can often be used in place of narcotics for short term pain management. However, not everyone should be using these products, and most people should avoid daily long-term use. NSAIDs, with long-term use can cause stomach erosion, ulcers, and bleeding. For patients on warfarin they are particularly dangerous because they can further increase a patient's risk of bleeding. They can also raise patient's blood pressure and damage their kidneys.

Aspirin should not be given to children, asthmatics, or pregnant women. Some over-the-counter medications contain Aspirin and people may be unaware of this. For example, Pepto-Bismol and some other antacids contain Aspirin. If you are unsure please ask your pharmacist if certain OTCs are safe for you.

There are number of arthritis rubs and creams available. Some of these contain Aspirin and other types of NSAIDs. If you are on warfarin or have problems with your stomach you should be careful with the use of these products. They still get absorbed in to your blood stream and can have negative effects.

In recent months there have been some media reports encouraging people to take 400mg of ibuprofen twice a week for its general anti-inflammatory properties. It is thought that inflammation may be involved in the formation of some cancers, such as colon cancer; therefore taking ibuprofen may play a role in helping to prevent some cancers. However, further research needs to be done in this area for confirmation of results and safety. It is also suggested that if you are at any risk for heart disease or stroke take a daily 81mg Aspirin. Talk to your doctor if you think you could benefit from these preventative strategies.

Tylenol (acetaminophen) is used to treat pain and fever. Tylenol does not have the same anti-inflammatory properties that Aspirin or ibuprofen has but it is safer for some people to take. For patients with arthritis who can't take NSAIDs it is the next best option. Tylenol is metabolized through the liver so it is best not taken by individuals with any type of liver disease. There is also a limit to the amount of Tylenol a patient should take in a day. People should not exceed more than four grams in a day. There are many cough and cold products that contain Tylenol. Please ask the pharmacist if you are taking multiple products.

Ibuprofen and Tylenol can be taken together. Typically ibuprofen should be given every 6-8 hours and Tylenol can be given every four to six. If you have a young child with a high fever it is okay to give Motrin every six hours and the Tylenol in between. It may provide some additional benefit and keep the fever down in between doses.

In general Tylenol, and NSAIDs are safe and effective for most people. These medications work very well and can provide much comfort and relief. If you are unsure what the best product is for you, your pharmacist will be happy to help you.

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FUNDRAISER

On a mission to build a woodshop

InPort News

WAINFLEET — Pelham Community Church has set open Arms Mission on its way to raising \$100,000 for a woodworking shop at the mission's Forks Rd. farm.

Church members Howard Gillip, Herb Lodde and Sabine Carson gave mission executive director Jerry Vanderklok a cheque for \$4,000 woodworking shop to be housed in the property's barn.

"The barn needs renovation," says Vanderklok, adding it also where

weekly meetings are held.

The barn and home where Open Arms is located was once home to Claire's Delivery.

The woodworking shop will allow people to learn new skills and create furniture that could be sold at the mission's Redeemed Goods store on Crowland Ave.

Vanderklok says the skills developed at the wood-working shop are a benefit for not only those learning them, but for the mission and the community at large.

"People will also gain confidence," Adds Lodde, "The skills they learn can be passed on to others."

The funds donated by the church were raised at a beef on a bun dinner and a pancake breakfast. Other fundraisers are planned.



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INPORT NEWS

Readers' Choice

2013

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Fill in your ballot for the InPort Readers' Choice Awards.

Write the names of your favourite businesses on the line provided.

You can vote for as many different types of businesses as you wish in each of the categories. Those merchants and businesses who receive the most votes

will win the prestigious Readers' Choice Award. The winners will be announced in a

special section of InPort News in April, 2013. Watch for our

Your ballot to your entry to our prize! So fill it out and send it today!

The deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Friday, March 22nd, 2013.

Limit One Ballot Per Reader.

Please note: All categories do not have to be fully completed.

Best Place for Food and Drink

Best Overall Restaurant _____
 Breakfast _____
 Brunch _____
 Chicken Wings _____
 Chinese Restaurant _____
 Cup of Coffee _____
 Dessert _____
 Doughnuts _____
 Drive Thru _____
 Family Restaurant _____
 Fast Food Restaurant _____
 Fish & Chips _____
 French Fries _____
 Hamburger _____
 Ice Cream Parlour _____
 Italian Restaurant _____
 Lunch _____
 Outdoor Patio _____
 Pizza _____
 Restaurant with a View _____
 Sub _____

Best Entertainment

Bar _____
 Sports Bar _____
 Golf Course _____

Best Shopping

Antiques _____
 Appliances _____
 Auto Parts _____
 Bakery _____
 Bedding _____
 Butcher Shop _____
 Carpet/Flooring _____

Best Shopping Continued

Convenience Store _____
 Dollar Store _____
 Florist _____
 Furniture Store _____
 Gardening Centre _____
 Gift Shop _____
 Grocery Store _____
 Hardware Store _____
 Health Food Store _____
 Home Electronics Store _____
 Jewellery Store _____
 Lumber Yard _____
 Men's Store _____
 Muffler Shop _____
 New Cars _____
 Office Supplies _____
 Optical Store _____
 Paint/Wallpaper _____
 Pet Store _____
 Pharmacy _____
 Shoe Store _____
 Sporting Goods _____

Tires _____
 Used Cars _____
 Water Company _____
 Women's Store _____

Best Services

Auto Body Shop _____
 Auto Repair _____
 Bank _____
 Barber Shop _____
 Beauty Salon _____
 Car Wash _____

Best Services Continued

Carpet Cleaning _____
 Catering Company _____
 Credit Union _____
 Dance Studio _____
 Dry Cleaner _____
 Fitness Club _____
 Gas Station _____
 Heating & Air Conditioning _____
 House Cleaning Service _____
 Insurance Brokerage _____
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 Locksmith _____
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 Signage Company _____
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Contest Rules:

Only original newspaper ballots accepted. No mechanical reproductions allowed. Employees of the InPort News, and their immediate families are not eligible. Winners of the Grand Prize will be determined by a random draw from all entries received by 4 p.m. Friday, March 22nd, 2013. Winners will be contacted by phone. You do not have to fully complete ballot to win.

Name: _____

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SEND ENTRIES TO:

InPort, Readers' Choice 2013

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OR DROP OFF BETWEEN 8:30 AM AND 4:00 PM

■ ENVIRONMENT

Green Energy Act focus of municipalities' advisory group

InPort News

WAINFLEET — On the heels of the first-ever rural and small urban green energy symposium held in Wainfleet

on Feb. 22, township council has passed a motion being sent out across the province.

Wainfleet's motion calls for municipalities to endorse an organization — created at the

symposium — comprising municipal leaders who will serve in a central advisory group role on issues relating to the Green Energy Act and items pertaining to the

approval process for wind projects.

The aim is to protect municipalities and residents who will be directly or indirectly

impacted by wind turbine development.

A second motion put forth at the symposium, also to be sent across the province, calls on the premier to formally

engage municipal leaders in a broad discussion about possible amendments to the Green Energy Act to restore municipal planning and zoning powers.

SPOTLIGHT on service

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■ COLUMN

Recognize rewards from creative side of humanity

A lot can happen in a week. The new Vale Health and Wellness Centre was opened with great fanfare. The reaction has been positive as all the money spent to make it a reality can be seen in the facility.

A local group of artists held a well attended event/display at the new Jericho House facility on Rathfon Rd. Port Colborne Operatic Society, presenting Broadway shows to Port Colborne since 1945, staged the 2013 edition, *Oliver!*, to full houses.

The library started taking registrations for March break activities for children and an information session was held at the Roselawn Centre to demonstrate the benefits to businesses of supporting arts and culture activities.

"Tell me what you spend your time on and I can tell you what you are interested in. Tell me what you spend



CHARLES SALMON

LIFE MATTERS

your money on and I can tell you what you value most."

As a community, Port Colborne has spent all the money in the community piggy bank on the Health and Wellness Centre.

That is what the community, through its elected representatives, decided was the most valuable thing that could be done with those resources.

The facility on Rathfon Rd. was built after a number of people spent time and effort fundraising to pay for the building.

The artists choose that site for their display because it was more affordable than other accommodation.

The operatic society meets a need in the community. It provides an outlet for those who want to dance, sing, act and who can perform in public. It is an example of a community group that renews itself year after year by bringing new people in based on a common purpose.

The library is charging a nominal fee for their program. Since the program is designed for children it appeals to those who see children as a family and community resource-in-potential whose development will benefit us all. This is a good example of the community investing in something that it considers important.

Most linear, logical activity, such as operating a business, is left brain activity. The creative arts is largely right brain activity. Operating a business can be an intensely creative activity. The ability to access more areas of one's

brain enables one to be more creative and to ward off the approach of senility or dementia.

One place that the differences in economic class can be seen is in the choices those with more disposable income make in spending their money. Parents with more tend to enrol their children in music lessons, art classes, dance, theatre experiences and the creative arts in general.

Children from higher income homes tend to get more postsecondary education and eventually, higher paying employment.

When public schools cut back on the arts there is an impairment in the ability of the students so affected to fully develop their potential, and ultimately, an impairment of the communities human resources.

Bilingualism is one way

to enhance one's brain function. Appreciation of and participation in the creative arts is one of the activities that helps to maintain one's mental health, which is a part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Seniors who take part in the creative arts remain intellectually able longer. What one feeds into one's mind has to find expression.

Arts Place is experiencing its 21st year as an artist's collective. It has done so without any public money and is a testament to the interest and creativity of the artists involved, (but a few more buying viewers would also be welcome).

We have just had the annual Oscars awards. At its heart the Oscars is about celebrating cinema arts. It is also big business.

There will always be artists or creators because it is a deep human impulse to express what is within.

If the impulse is thwarted, it can be expressed in anti-social behaviour. If the creative impulse is encouraged and facilitated, it can give rise to whole new opportunities.

There are actors, musicians, singers, photographers, painters, sculptors, street performers, writers, speakers, and so many other creators who would benefit from knowing that Port Colborne is a hospitable environment in which they can develop their craft.

A hospitable community can be an incubator for artistic expression and development.

The rewards go beyond merely individual artistic expression, it also identifies the community as an attractive place and it can be an economic generator.

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Dr. Andrew Taylor knows how challenging it can be for consumers deciding on laser vision correction procedures. Understandably any one would be confused by the wide range of fees associated with laser eye surgery. Some centers are offering quotes as low as \$299 per eye with very vague guarantees. Consumers have caught on to the fact that these fees are never really as low as they seem. If you can't trust the advertised price, then how can you trust that provider to perform your surgery? These are your eyes, and the best guarantee in laser eye surgery comes directly from your surgeon, equipment and the professional staff that support both.

Many consumers now realize the tangible economic benefit of laser vision correction. If you are a contact lens wearer the average monthly cost for contacts and supplies is between \$75-\$100 dollars. This represents an annual cost of roughly \$1,500 dollars since most patients require a back up pair of glasses every 12-24 months. One has typically spent about \$7,500 dollars on optical wear over the past 5 years and will have similar cost over the next 5 years to look forward too. In fact patients are already financing their vision correction needs. The effect of lasik can last a lifetime making your investment more cost efficient.

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that is used in North America today. He lectures internationally in the field of laser eye surgery and on laser platforms. He is involved in the regulatory studies for the approval of new devices and procedures. Dr. Andrew Taylor has chosen the Zeiss MEL 80TM Excimer laser and the VisuMax Femtosecond Laser as his preferred platform. Carl Zeiss is internationally renowned for their expertise in optics, their lenses are likely to be the ones you use at home in your cameras. Carl Zeiss Meditec utilizes advanced engineering profiles which produce superlative, predictable refractive outcomes which is what you want as a refractive eye patient.

The Zeiss MEL 80TM Excimer laser custom treats every eye with Wavefront technology. This laser is one of the fastest in the world; it uses dual eye tracking for accuracy and centration. It also uses aberration-optimized algorithms to reduce the incidence of night glare. Visual quality and stability is unsurpassed with the Carl Zeiss laser platform. The MEL 80TM laser has the newest technology providing correction for the presbyopic population. It is known as Zeiss BLENDED VISION, and is based on the principle of micro-monovision. It allows the eyes to maintain different focusing depths. Both eyes are corrected for intermediate distance at all times with one eye having a range of vision extending to distance and the other eye having a range of vision extending to near. This creates a functional range of clear vision across all visual fields; near, intermediate and far. The laser reshapes the cornea using different power zones to create useful spherical aberration; making the image disparity between the two eyes so small that the brain doesn't notice which eye it is using for far and near. This is the most exciting device in laser eye surgery today; treating "old age eyes".

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On behalf of the entire staff at Lasik Provision we look forward to working with you.

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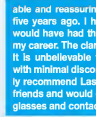
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Jim, Police Officer

"Wearing glasses and contacts in the line of duty was a huge burden. In varying environmental conditions my glasses would fog up or be covered in moisture from rain or snow, and contact lenses would dry out before the end of a twelve hour shift. I was sceptical about the whole Lasik process but Dr. Taylor and his staff were very knowledgeable and reassuring. I had the Lasik process completed five years ago. I have had no complications and wish I would have had the procedure completed at the start of my career. The clarity with which I can see is remarkable. It is unbelievable that such a short surgical procedure with minimal discomfort can produce such results. I highly recommend Lasik Provision to colleagues, family and friends and would encourage anyone who struggles with glasses and contacts to attend for a consultation."



Barb, Optometrist

"I am thrilled with the vision sharpness and stability since having laser eye surgery with Dr. Taylor. It has enabled me to work more efficiently without having to put glasses on and off all the time. I am very grateful for Dr. Taylor's skills and professionalism for treating my myopia."



Fatima, Youth Worker

"I am writing this to express my full gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Taylor and his entire staff, having had successful Lasik surgery performed with absolutely no complications whatsoever. I was not only impressed but overwhelmed with the expertise, professionalism, and courtesy that I received from every single person that I came into contact with during the course of that day."



Don, Workplace Safety & Insurance Specialist

"I have referred to it as a minor miracle! After many years of wearing irritating contact lenses and also needing reading glasses, I have now thrown them all away! With my new blended vision I now see clearly near and far. I am absolutely thrilled with the result!"

6800 Morrison Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario